

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

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Submissions

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

On the cover

Air Force Master Sgt. Jacqueline Johanning gives a flu vaccination to USU Brigadier commander, Navy Capt. (Dr.) Tanis Batsel Stewart. USU personnel are reminded of the importance of getting vaccinated against potential diseases. See story page 4.



Grad student earns National Society Research Fellowship

by Ken Frager



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Jeremy Gilbreath

Jeremy Gilbreath is the recipient of the 2010-2013 American Society of Microbiology (ASM) D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship.

Gilbreath is a second-year Emerging Infectious Diseases graduate student.

The elite opportunity recognizes “the best and the brightest rising scientists who will represent the (ASM) society and themselves to their full potential.”

“I and the entire Emergency Infectious Diseases program are very proud that Jeremy was chosen to receive this distinguished fellowship,” said Dr. Scott Merrell, Department of Microbiology and Immunology associate professor. “Given that only seven such awards were given nationally, his selection is a true reflection of Jeremy’s potential as a promising young scientist. Moreover, his successful competition with individuals from diverse schools across the country sends a strong message that those outside of our university recognize the significant science being conducted and graduate training being provided at USU.”

This three-year award, which totals more than \$60,000 over the life, will be used by Gilbreath to continue to conduct research in the microbiological sciences.

The fellowship stipend is used to cover living expenses and expenses related to travel to scientific meetings.

As a fellow, Gilbreath also is required to submit an abstract for presentation at the ASM General Meeting each year.

Happy Birthday

Air Force 2nd Lt. Toni Shorma cuts the Air Force’s Birthday cake during a ceremony outside Sanford Auditorium. On Sept. 18, 2010 Airmen around the world celebrated the Air Force’s 63 years of heritage and airpower in the United States.



Photo by HM1 Oliver

Henry M. Jackson Foundation names three Fellowship winners



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Diana Riner



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Norah Hibbits



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Sangeetha Rajesh

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine has selected three promising USU doctoral students to receive fellowships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The program established in 1988, comprises two Henry M. Jackson Fellowships and one Val G. Hemming Fellowship. Each fellow receives a stipend and travel support.

Diana Riner, a fourth-year graduate student in the Emerging Infections Diseases program, won the Val G. Hemming Fellowship. Riner works in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen Davies, focusing on the parasite *Schistosoma mansoni*.

Interested in understanding the mechanism by which *S. mansoni* exploit the human immune system to facilitate its own development, Riner's data have led her to hypothesize that Schistosomes co-opt immune signals released by dead or damaged host liver cells in response to physical damage caused by the parasite. Riner's research into these innate immune signals could

lend insights into the development of new drug targets and vaccine strategies for the treatment and prevention of Schistosomiasis, the second most socioeconomically devastating parasitic disease after malaria.

Nearly 200 million people worldwide are infected with the disease.

Norah Hibbits, recipient of a Henry M. Jackson Fellowship, is a sixth-year student completing her thesis project in Dr. Regina Armstrong's laboratory in the Neuroscience program at USU.

Hibbits' research centers on mouse models of axon demyelination and remyelination. Central nervous system demyelination can result in severe motor and cognitive deficits. Multiple sclerosis is a leading cause of CNS demyelination in humans. Hibbits' research aims to better understand factors that affect the cellular repair response to demyelination, research which will be helpful in identifying novel treatments for Multiple Sclerosis.

Sangeetha Rajesh, a fifth-year student in the Molecular and Cell Biology program, also received a Henry M. Jackson Fellowship. Rajesh works in the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Darling studying tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), a genetic disorder with an incidence of 1 in 6,000.

These TSC patients develop tumors in multiple organs, such as brain, kidney, heart, lungs and skin. In her research on angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis in TSC skin tumors, she has identified proteins that stimulate blood and lymphatic vessels that may contribute to the development of these tumors.

By using drugs to counteract these proteins, Rajesh hopes to develop new treatments for this devastating disease.

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization established in 1983. It is authorized by Congress to support medical research and education at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as well as the broader military medical community.



The USU Combined Federal Campaign BBQ Kick-Off will be held Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 11:30am–1:30pm. This event will feature guest speakers, offer giveaways, a great BBQ lunch and the chance for all University personnel to meet representatives from numerous charitable organizations.

USU prepares for the flu season

by Ken Frager

Fall may be just arriving but so is the start of preparation for the annual flu season. The University Family Health Center is ready and has received its first round of vaccines.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending that everyone six months of age or older receives the vaccine this year, including women who are pregnant or breastfeeding," said HM1 Daryl Mercado, coordinator for this season's vaccine initiative. "There is only one shot or dose of nasal mist this year since the manufacturers included the H1N1 strain in this vaccine. This should make it easier for people to tolerate. We are following the CDC recommendations, and while the vaccine is Category C for pregnancy, we recommend that women who are pregnant or nursing should be vaccinated."

"The best action we can take to prevent the spread of the flu virus is to provide the most effective vaccine available, to make sure everyone who is at-risk receives their vaccine, and to ensure proper precautions if someone has flu-like symptoms," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Jeffrey Quinlan, medical director for the USU Clinic. "We will do our part by providing vaccine for all active-duty USU students and staff, as well as family members, once our full allotment is received. Currently there is only a limited supply available, and therefore, we are taking this one group at a time, beginning with the MS1 and MS2 students. We will be updating the University through the GroupWise email system and Relay-Health as vaccine becomes available." Anyone who can, is encouraged to get the vaccine through the local schools or programs as they become available. It is possible that some of the counties may receive Maryland doses prior to the DoD receiving its entire shipment.

The clinic will have both injectable and mist for distribution, but recommendations call for most of the USU population to receive the mist. People between the ages of six and

24 months and over the age of 49, should receive the injectable vaccine. At this time, we only have Afluria®. This vaccine is not recommended for children six months to nine years, in accordance with CDC guidelines. The DoD is researching this issue to acquire another vaccine, Fluzone®. This means, children who fall into this age group (above 24 months to nine years) will only be offered the Flumist® at this time. Children who are not eligible to receive the mist (because of age or a documented medical issue) should consider the alternate options.

Quinlan adds that anyone in a high-risk group who doesn't want to wait can take advantage of their Tricare Prime benefits options and receive the vaccine at many of the local grocery stores and pharmacies that are participating. Information is available at express-scripts.com/tricare or by calling 877-363-1303. Other insurance plans also offer vaccine arrangements so call the customer service number or check the appropriate websites for information.

"The flu remains a frequent cause of illness and hospitalization in the U.S., but there are things we can do to reduce risks. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms we recommend you follow appropriate precautions, including hand washing, proper sneezing etiquette, and minimize exposure to others," said Dr. Quinlan. "If you feel you require medical attention for your flu symptoms, please call first for an appointment to limit exposure to other clinic patients. Active-duty service members should call at 0715 for quarters or acute appointments and dependants are to call at 0800 hours for acute same-day appointments.

Because a majority of flu patients simply require rest and fluids or occasional over-the-counter medications to help alleviate the symptoms associated with the flu, the clinic staff is recommending that you stay home (avoid public venues) until you are not running a fever for 24-hours.

The Pulse Spotlight:



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Name:

Harrison J. Rodriguez

Duty title:

IT SPECIALIST (APPSW/DATAMGT)

How long have you worked with USU?

I have worked with USU for 11 years, 4 1/2 years for the University Registrar's Office and 6 1/2 years for Civilian Human Resources.

What brought you to USU?

I came to USU after 11 years with the U.S. Army as a Forward Observer. As a soldier, I enjoyed the camaraderie, team work and, most importantly, the unit of one. I realized that USU had all these characteristics and more... and this is what brought me to USU. "Steel on Target," Sir!

What is your favorite part of USU?

It's the people and our leadership. No matter who you are and what you do, your hard work is recognized and appreciated. I give thanks to my leadership for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to succeed.

What advice would you pass on to people new to USU?

Be positive, work hard and always strive to be the best.

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress Resources Featured at Pentagon

Contributed by Nancy Vineburgh, CSTS

At the request of Headquarters, Department of the Army, Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction Task Force, educational resources of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress were part of a September Suicide Prevention Month display at the Pentagon.

The display appeared in Corridors 9 and 10 of the Pentagon Sept. 7 through Sept. 9.

The featured resources of the display included CSTS suicide fact sheets and Courage to Care Courage to Talk brochures and posters.

The center's Courage to Care Courage to Talk campaign and resources address the importance of communication around the injuries of war. It focuses between the military family and healthcare provider, and within the family itself, especially talking with children.

The Courage to Care Courage to Talk resources developed by the center's Child and Family Program and its Office of Public Education are also being featured on the Pentagon InfoNet through the end of November. The Pentagon InfoNet, is part of the Department of Defense's Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Defense Facilities Directorate (DFD) and the Information Technology Management Directorate (ITMD) within the Pentagon.

It will project the Courage to Talk brochure in high traffic areas in the Pentagon and in 44 of its systems in federal buildings including enclosures in the Pentagon, Hoffman 1 and 2, Taylor, Polk, Henderson and the Navy Annex.

InfoNet dispatches unclassified timely events and program updates using a combination of digital



imagery, video and animated text on large, flat-screen monitors.

Approximately 160, 000 people view the InfoNet during any given week.

Recognizing excellence



Photo by HM1 Michael Oliver

Twenty-three USU Brigade military members pose for a picture with Brigade commander, Navy Capt. Tanis Batsel Stewart (Second row, far left) and Brigade Senior Enlisted Leader, Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Clinton Garrett (Second Row, far right). Each military service member was recognized during a Brigade Award Ceremony, Aug. 27 for their outstanding contributions while serving the University.

Renewing Thai collaboration

by Brianne Kurtz, Office of Affiliations and International Affairs

Renewing more than a decade of collaboration, the USU Office of Affiliations and International Affairs was honored to host a visit with Lt. Gen. Vidhya Chovichien, Surgeon General of the Royal Thai Army Medical Department.

He was accompanied by three delegation members who are on the faculty at the Thai military medical school, Phramongkutklao College of Medicine and Hospital. They are Maj. Gen. Krisada Duangurai, Director General/Dean; Col. Prapaipim Thirakhupt, Chairperson Department of Pediatrics; and Col. Suthee Panichkul, Head, Office of Research and Development.

The delegation spent the day meeting with senior USU leadership, followed by a visit to the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center.

The highlight of the visit was the renewing of the long-standing



Photo by Thomas Balfour

relationship between the USU Office of Affiliations and International Affairs led by Vice President Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, and the Thai Army Medical Department. This relationship was officially renewed during the ceremonial signing of a joint memorandum of understanding.

The University relationship with the Phramongkutklao College of Medicine and Hospital includes USU hosting a group of Thai medical cadets annually for a month-long clinical observation.

Taking Command



Photo by HM1 Michael Oliver

Marine Capt. Matthew Anderson takes the USU Headquarters Company guide on from Brigade Commander, Navy Capt. (Dr.) Tanis Batsel Stewart. Captain Anderson took command from Marine Capt. Sean Lynch, who was represented by Army Capt. Sean Tyler, the acting commander since 2009.

Briefs

DAI training courses available

In October, the College and University Financial System (CUFS) will be replaced by the Defense Agency Initiative's (DAI) Oracle Federal Financial System.

To coincide with the October implementation of the Defense Agency Initiative's (DAI) Oracle Federal Financial System, the following DAI training classes will be offered through early October.

To reserve a class date for a DAI course, register online at: http://www.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/usutrainig_reg.php. Additional DAI training class dates will be offered as needed.

For more information about DAI training, contact Debbie Trunnell at 295-9869 or Bob Parker at 295-3287.

New carpool guidance

The USU is currently transitioning to the new carpool program and any groups who wish to use the carpool garage at USU will have to apply to the NSAB.

An authorized carpool group can park in any of the spaces 1 thru 41 in the carpool area at this time. Once the carpool garage is full all other carpool groups will have to seek parking in the USU garage.

Drivers who arrive as the only member of their carpool group should not park in the assigned carpool area prior to 9 a.m. These drivers should park in the general USU parking areas.

To legally park in the USU carpool area a vehicle must have an L-1 sticker on the rear of your vehicle and a carpool rearview mirror hanger.

The carpool area will be open to all "L1" and "W" stickers between 9 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Drivers should also be aware that the base police will be enforcing this program. The USU Security office will assist in enforcing the program.

Drivers at AFRRRI should be aware that they are not included in the USU carpool program.

If you have additional questions you may contact the USU Security Department at 295-3033.

Upcoming LRC classes

The USU James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center will be holding several upcoming classes in the month of October.

The following classes will be offered at the LRC:

- Intro to PubMed will be held Oct. 6 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- EndNote Basics will be held Oct. 7 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- EndNote Web will be held Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Intro to PubMed will be held Oct. 18 from noon to 1 p.m.
- EndNote Basics will be held Oct. 25 from noon to 1 p.m.
- Tech Buzz: Ownership & the Web - Copyright & OA will be held July 28 from noon to 1 p.m.

People interested in attending these classes may sign up for them online at http://er.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/training_reg.php.

Classes will be held in the LRC's computer classroom on the first floor.

A Common Access Card, or CAC, that is enabled for domain login is required to use LRC computers.

Using computer resources

Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices:

Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network including MDL and lecture hall spaces; connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system.

Personnel must not permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games and social engineering sites.

Helpdesk closure

The UIS helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or email help@usuhs.mil.

If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

Exercise/Fitness areas

Physical Fitness training should be conducted in designated areas.

The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060.

The campus' Student Community Lounge area is also authorized, but only during specified PFT testing dates or times.

Professional activities

The Department of Defense and USU policy requires that all employees, both military and civilian, receive approval for engaging in any activity outside their work environment, which involves their professional expertise or government occupation, and involves compensation.

This approval is required prior to engaging in the activity.

In order to get approval, any employee can complete a USUHS Form 1004.

This completed form must be approved and signed by each department chair or activity head.

These forms are available in the General Counsel's office or online at the USU OGC Web site.

Completed forms must be turned in to the General Counsel's office. The form will be routed to the appropriate dean, brigade commander or USUHS president.

Once processing is completed, a copy of the approved form will be returned to the employee for the employee's records.



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